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October 21st.

Vice-President BRIDGES in the Chair.

Mr. Lea read a paper on the genus *Acostæa* of D'Orbigny, a new fresh water mollusc of the order *Dimyaria*, from the river Guadua, New Granada.

Mr. Lea considers this shell as one of the most remarkable and interesting which has ever come under his notice. The fact that it is in its young state a free *bimuscloose* shell, and in its mature state an affixed *unimuscloose* shell, places it among the anomalies which zoologists find it difficult to understand, but which, in this case, points out its true position in a natural arrangement. Mr. Lea expressed his convictions that this shell, now so well described by M. D'Orbigny, belonged to the same genus which Ferussac described in 1823, in Mem. of the Soc. Nat. Hist., Vol. 1, under the name of *Mulleria*, if it be not of the same species, a single specimen (adult) of which had then only been seen. Ferussac, considering the general resemblance of *Mulleria* to *Ostrea*, thought it ought to be put alongside of, if not in, the latter genus. Brongniart and Latreille thought it ought to go between *Spondylus* and *Arca*. Other authors had assigned it to various positions, while some doubted whether it was anything more than a malformation. The perfect specimen, in its junior and adult state, if it be *Mulleria*, now banish all difficulties. Mr. Lea thinks now, in placing *Mulleria* (*Acostæa*) in its true position, at the head of the order *Monomyaria*, where it makes the link with *Dimyaria*, it forms an easy transition from the first to the second order. Thus retaining the trace of one while it passes so curiously into the other. *Nihil per saltum*.

Mr. Lea, under the impression that D'Orbigny's *Acostæa Guaduasana* may prove to be a distinct species from the shell described by Ferussac, under the generic name of *Mulleria*, while it may belong to the same genus, proposes to give the name of that distinguished zoologist to it. That of *Guaduasana* should be retained of course for D'Orbigny's species. The genus would then represent *Mulleria Ferussacii*, and *Mulleria Guaduasana*.

The paper being intended for publication in the Journal, was referred to Dr. Leidy, Dr. Ruschenberger, and Dr. Wilson.

Dr. Fisher, on behalf of the Committee on the Memoir of Dr. Morton, reported that they had selected the Hall of the University of Pennsylvania, and had appointed the first Thursday in November as the time for hearing the Memoir read by Dr. Meigs, provided the consent of the Trustees of the University could be had, notice of which would be given.

On motion of Dr. Leidy, it was

Resolved, That persons not members of the Academy, who may contribute to the Museum or Library specimens of Natural History or Books, deemed of sufficient value by the Curators or Librarian, be entitled to a ticket of admission to the Museum on public days, for a period of six months.

Dr. Leidy exhibited three broken teeth, consisting of the body of a canine and that of two posterior molars, which, he observed, were fossils from Nebraska Territory, and belonged to an animal closely allied to the genus *Ursus*. The tubercles upon the crown of the molars are more elevated and conoidal than in the recent bears, and the crown of the canine is relatively more robust. He proposed for the animal the name of *Arctodon*.

Dr. L. stated that he was preparing a memoir, in which would be described in detail all the fossil remains of Mammalia from Nebraska Territory, heretofore characterized by him in the Proceedings.

He next presented for examination a species of fresh-water sponge found growing in the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers, in the vicinity of Philadelphia, which he characterized as follows:

SPONGILLA FRAGILIS.—Discoidal, lichenoid, growing in patches, flat, oval or circular, lobate at the margin, translucent, yellowish-white or cream-colored. Areolæ distinct, subcircular. Reproductive bodies arranged in a single close layer at the base of attachment of the sponge, shining, whitish-yellow, elevated into a central papilla upon the upper surface.

Measurements.—From $\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in diameter by 1 to $1\frac{1}{2}$ lines in thickness at the centre and gradually thinning off to the margin.

Habitation.—Grows upon the under side of stones below low water mark in the Rivers Delaware and Schuylkill.

Structure.—Composed of an intertexture of spiculæ about 1-400th of an inch long, having a minutely tuberculated surface, over which is reflected a granulo-cellular membrane.

Remarks.—After the death of the sponge, the areolated tissue macerates off, leaving the reproductive bodies in a close layer attached to the rock. The living sponge is never green, nor does it ever grow exposed to the light.

Dr. L. farther stated that another species of fresh-water sponge is not uncommon in our rivers, which grows exposed to the light, and is green in color like the European *Spongilla fluviatilis*, but whether it is specifically distinct from the latter, he has not yet ascertained.

October 28th.

Vice-President WETHERILL in the Chair.

The Committee to which was referred Mr. Lea's paper on the genus *Acostæ*, of D'Orbigny, reported in favor of publication in the Journal.

The Committee to which was referred Mr. Cassin's "Catalogue of the Caprimulgidæ in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," reported in favor of publication. [For this paper see the end of the present number.]

The Committee to which was referred the following paper of Mr. C. Girard, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.